	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/697,834	ACHARYA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Quang N. Nguyen	2141	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *the Amendment filed on 11/07/2007*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-7,9-16 and 18-20*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
      Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
    Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
    Paper No./Mail Date *see attachment* .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

Quang N. Nguyen
Patent Examiner - AU 2141

Interview Summary

1.   A proposed amendment was submitted for applicant's consideration. Examiner suggested the Applicant to amend claims as shown in the Examiner's Amendment below in order to place the application in condition for allowance.

Examiner's Amendment

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3.   Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with the Applicant's Representative, Mr. George Willinghan (Reg. No. 41,377), on November 12th, 2007.

4.   Please amend claims 1, 10, 20 and cancel claims 8 and 17 as below:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method for establishing an overlay network of collaborative conference servers for use in a multi-participant conference, the method comprising:

identifying a set of conference servers;

communicating an internet protocol address and a path delay time for each one of the identified conference servers to all of the identified conference servers in the set of conference servers to establish a plurality of collaborative conference servers;

connecting at least two of the conference servers directly to at least two separate conference participants; and

using each one of the directly connected conference servers to simultaneously provide audio mixing for its directly attached participant,

wherein the step of communicating the internet protocol addresses and the path delay times further comprises:

communicating an internet protocol address and a path delay time for each one of the conference servers among the connected conference participants; and

communicating the addresses and the path delay times of conference servers from each participant to its directly connected conference server.

Claim 8. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium containing computer executable code that when read by a computer causes the computer to perform a method for establishing an overlay network of collaborative conference servers for use in a multi-participant conference, the method comprising:

identifying a set of conference servers;

communicating an internet protocol address and a path delay time for each one of the identified conference servers to all of the identified conference servers in the set of conference servers to establish a plurality of collaborative conference servers;

connecting at least two of the conference servers directly to at least two separate conference participants; and

using each one of the directly connected conference servers to simultaneously provide audio mixing for its directly attached participant,

wherein the step of communicating the internet protocol addresses and the path delay times further comprises:

 communicating an internet protocol address and a path delay time for each one of the conference servers among the connected conference participants; and

 communicating the addresses and the path delay times of conference servers from each participant to its directly connected conference server.

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claim 20. (Currently amended) A system for providing multi-participant conferencing, the system comprising:

an overlay network of conference servers arranged to collaboratively host the multi-party conference, the overlay network comprising a plurality of conference servers,

each conference server ~~comprising~~ **ar ranged to obtain** an internet protocol address and a path delay time for all of the other conference servers **to establish a plurality of collaborative conference servers**, directly attached to at least one conference participant and arranged to supply audio mixing for the directly attached **conference** participant,

wherein all of the conference servers provide audio mixing for directly attached participants simultaneously**, and**

wherein the step of obtaining the internet protocol addresses and the path delay times further comprises:

communicating an internet protocol address and a path delay time for each one of the conference servers among the connected conference participants; and

communicating the addresses and the path delay times of conference servers from each participant to its directly connected conference server.

5.   Claims 1-7, 9-16 and 18-20 are allowed.

6.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In interpreting the currently amended claims, in light of the specification and the applicant's arguments filed on 11/07/2007, the Examiner finds the claimed invention to be patentably distinct from the prior art of records. Specially, the prior art of records, individually or in combination, fail to explicitly teach or render obvious the claimed invention as recited in independent claims 1, 10 and 20.

The features recited in independent claims 1, 10 and 20 *"communicating an internet protocol address and a path delay time for each one of the identified conference servers to all of the identified conference servers in the set of conference servers to establish a plurality of collaborative conference servers; wherein the step of communicating the internet protocol addresses and the path delay times further comprises: communicating an internet protocol address and a path delay time for each one of the conference servers among the connected conference participants; and communicating the addresses and the path delay times of conference servers from each participant to its directly connected conference server"*, when taken in the context of the claim as a whole, was not uncovered in the prior art of records.

Nor were the prior art of records uncovered that would have provided a basis evidence for asserting a motivation that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, knowing of a system and method for establishing an overlay network of collaborative conference servers for use in a multi-participant conference, would have integrated or modified to teach the system and method comprising *"communicating an internet protocol address and a path delay time for each one of the identified conference servers to all of the identified conference servers in the set of conference servers to establish a plurality of collaborative conference servers; wherein the step of communicating the internet protocol addresses and the path delay times further comprises: communicating an internet protocol address and a path delay time for each one of the conference servers among the connected conference participants; and communicating the addresses and the path delay times of conference servers from each participant to its directly connected conference server"*, including other specific features as recited in the context of independent claims 1, 10 and 20.

Dependent claims 2-7, 9, 11- 16 and 18-19 further limit the allowed independent claims 1 and 10; therefore, they are also allowed.

7.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should clearly labeled "Comments on Examiner's Amendment".

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang N. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3886.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's SPE, Rupal Dharia, can be reached at (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Quang N. Nguyen
Patent Examiner – AU 2141
November 12th, 2007